

WHAT MIGHT GOD BE THINKING?

"I thought to myself, 'I would love to treat you as my own children!' I wanted nothing more than to give you this beautiful land — the finest inheritance in the world. I looked forward to your calling me 'Father,' and I thought you would never turn away from me again. But you have betrayed me, you people of Israel! You have been like a faithless wife who leaves her husband," says the Lord."
(Jeremiah 3:19-20 NLT)

What a glimpse into the intense emotion of God! Here we have the Creator, Sustainer, Deliverer, and Savior of Israel admitting that all He really has wanted was for people to be His children . . . for them to call Him 'Father,' and to never turn away. God's desire for Israel was to shower her with blessings and beauty, land and light forever . . . but Israel betrayed her loving Lord, forfeiting much, if not all, of the glory that He had planned.

It is hard to fathom such disregard for God's love! After the creation, the Fall and the Flood; after the promises, the covenants, and the laws; after the miracles, the exodus, and the conquest of Canaan; after the prosperity, the military might, and the kings;

after the wanderings, the judgments, and the prophets; after all this, Israel *still* hadn't figured it out. The chosen nation was unwilling to bow the knee to her Lord; a faithless wife, committing adultery by worshiping idols and enslaving herself to sin.

What might God be thinking today about His people . . . His beloved church? Might He be thinking to himself, even now, "I would love to treat you as my own children . . . to give you the revival you are praying for, that which would restore the power, heal the land, break down strongholds of evil, advance the kingdom, bring hope and light to the nations"? And tragically, in the midst of such great desire to bless and empower, God looks down at those who call themselves by His

"I looked forward to your calling me 'Father,' and I thought you would never turn away from me again."

Jeremiah 3:19 (NLT)

OPEN HEART SURGERY . . .

"I feel that God has performed open heart surgery on me. He found me in pride and selfishness; pride because I had retaken the "throne" of my life back from Christ, and selfishness because I had drifted away from humility, repentance and grace into doing only what my flesh desired. My heart had hardened, my conscience was clouded over. But now (praise God!) my slate is again clean, my conscience clear, and my heart (though still bleeding) is healing!" (Testimony from Louisiana, U.S.A.)

It is easy to develop "blockages" in our spiritual arteries without even realizing it . . . but thankfully we serve a Great Physician; one who specializes in restoring and reforming hearts even when they are in desperate condition. What love! What grace! What power! What mercy!

name . . . and so many have betrayed Him! From flagrant carnality to subtle compromises, His people have committed spiritual adultery with the world around them — loving the fruitless deeds of darkness more than the Light of the world!

Must not the Lord be looking tearfully at these multitudes —

they that are singing 'Lord, Lord' with their lips, but crying 'World, World' with their hearts? With pain that only a Father could experience, He recalls His intention: *"I looked forward to doing more than anything you could ask or imagine, my church, and I thought you would never turn away from me again. But you have betrayed me..."* ♦

PREPARING FOR REVIVAL

- What would God say about my relationship with Him?
- Have I embraced the love of God? Do I *really* believe He loves me?
- In what areas have I "betrayed" my Lover — my Lord?

For further reflection, see 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, Colossians 3:12-17.

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